

REMARKS

The claims have been amended better to point out that which applicants regard as their invention. More particularly, claim 1 now contains the limitation of claim 2, which has been canceled, stating that the slip layer is constructed so that the content of the slip agent in the slip layer increases from the top surface of the slip layer toward the top surface of the hardcoat. Process claim 6 has been amended to include the additional treating step of now-canceled claim 7. A minor self-evident change has been made in claim 8. The claims before the Examiner are claims 1, 3 to 6, and 8 to 12.

The rejection of claims 1 to 5, if applied to claims 1 and 3 to 5 as amended, under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Noritake et al. '126 is respectfully traversed.

There is no teaching or showing in the reference of a slip layer constructed so that the content of the slip agent in the slip layer increases from the top surface of the slip layer toward the top surface of the hardcoat. The Examiner asserts in the last two sentences of the last full paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action that the description in Noritake et al. '126 of Example B of the hardcoat composition and the resulting hardcoat layer "anticipate claims 2-3." Applicants respectfully

disagree. The reader of the patent is in no way taught about a "slip layer being constructed so that the content of the slip agent in the slip layer increases from the top surface of the slip layer toward the top surface of the hardcoat."

Moreover, the reference does not indicate that the photopolymerization initiator is one that initiates the photopolymerization of the ultraviolet curable resin upon exposure to ultraviolet light in its wavelength region other than the wavelength region absorbable by the transparent substrate film on which the hardcoat and slip layer are placed.

The Examiner acknowledges in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action that Noritake et al. '126 does not teach expressly the photopolymerization initiator features of claim 4 (claim 1 likewise say applicants) but that the values are "inherent." Applicants disagree completely with such a conclusion. In the first place, there is no mention at all in the reference of the need to have the particular photopolymerization initiator controls of the instant claims. Furthermore, the working and comparative examples in the specification prove there is no such inherency (the state of something always happening) and the unexpected (and hence patentable) features of the present invention. The Examiner is

directed to pages 32 to 40 of the specification where the working and comparative examples appear and are discussed; see particularly the discussion of the results of the comparative examples at page 36, lines 4 to 12; the paragraph bridging pages 36 and 37; page 37, lines 22 to 28; and page 38, lines 12 to 30. The reference does not teach applicants' claimed subject matter. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Noritake et al. '126 is rendered moot by the placement in that claim of a feature of a claim (7) not so rejected.

The rejection of claims 7 to 12 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Noritake et al. '126, if applied to claims 6 and 8 to 12 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6, as amended, now specifically calls for a second treatment of ultraviolet light in its wavelength region, permitting the photopolymerization initiator to initiate the photopolymerization of the ultraviolet light curable layer through the ultraviolet cured layer to further cure the ultraviolet cured layer. Such a technique is not taught or suggested in Noritake et al. '126. Nor does the reference, as pointed out above in the arguments traversing the rejection of

the article claims, teach or suggest the controls on the photopolymerization initiator as recited in the claims.

Noritake et al. '126 teaches a method of forming a composite film by (1) applying a coated liquid of an ionizing radiation-cured resin on a substrate film, (2) laminating an embossing film on the top surface of the ionizing radiation-cured resin layer before completely curing the ionizing radiation-cured resin, (3) curing the ionizing radiation-cured resin, and (4) removing the embossing film to form a hardcoat layer comprising a slip film with an irregular pattern on the top of the hardcoat; see the discussion in the reference at column 4, lines 6 to 13, Example 1A, and Fig. 1A.

The present invention, on the other hand, calls for in its process embodiment (1) forming an ultraviolet curable layer on a transparent substrate film, (2) covering the top surface of the ultraviolet layer with an oxygen impermeable material, (3) applying ultraviolet light through the transparent substrate film to cure the ultraviolet light-curable layer and (4) applying ultraviolet light through the ultraviolet-cured layer further to cure the ultraviolet-cured layer. The instant invention relies upon a combination of steps (2) to (4) including repeated application of ultraviolet light to cure the

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ultraviolet-cured layer. Moreover, the instant invention uses a specific photopolymerization initiator that initiates the photopolymerization of the ultraviolet curable resin upon exposure to ultraviolet light in its wavelength region other than the wavelength region absorbable by the transparent substrate film. The reference does not teach or suggest these techniques and the rejection should be withdrawn.

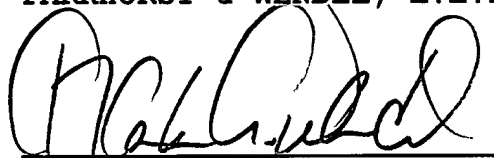
The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

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In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the case is in condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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